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Patent

**Abstract of the Invention**

~~An embodiment of the system of the present invention generally comprises a~~  
A mailpiece sorting apparatus is described which includes a feeder, an OCR scanner, a mailpiece transporter, a sanitizer and compartments or bins for receiving sorted mailpieces, an optical character recognition system (OCR) for reading addressee information, an addressee database, and a personal computer (PC) or microprocessor based control system. In one configuration ~~an embodiment of the present invention~~, mailpieces are fed, singulated and sanitized. In another ~~embodiment of the present invention~~ configuration, mailpieces are fed, singulated, sanitized and sorted. In another ~~embodiment of the present invention~~ configuration, the system is contained in a sanitization area and clean room. The system provides for sanitization of mailpieces so as to help deter delays in incoming mail delivery caused by the presence of life harming material and sanitize the mail so as to protect the intended recipients from harm.